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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5415
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7391
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0003
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TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [ICJ](#) [KV](#) [IN](#)
SUBJECT: ENGAGING STATES IN KOSOVO RECOGNITION: INDIA
REMAINS OPPOSED

REF: A. STATE 11928
[1](#)B. 2008 NEW DELHI 2370 AND PREVIOUS

In response to reftel demarche, Poloff, together with UK High Commission Poloff, delivered talking points on Kosovo recognition to the External Affairs Ministry Director for Central Europe M. Sevala Naik on February 17. Naik adamantly reiterated that India's position on Kosovo remains unchanged, i.e., that India's policy on recognizing states is based on the UN charter, and therefore the GOI does not believe Kosovo has met the criteria of independent statehood at this time. Responding to a question from our UK colleague, Naik stated that India is considering a written statement on the issue at the International Court of Justice prior to April 17, adding that the statement has been referred to MEA's legal office for an opinion, and that final determination as to whether it will be formally submitted has not been made. Naik opined that it is unlikely that the Indian position will change at all between now and the conclusion of Indian general elections in May.
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